

## Claims

1. Apparatus for continuous vertical casting of metal strips, comprising  
a mould (10) having top and bottom ends an open-ended mould cavity (C)  
5 with a mould entrance opening (E) at the top end and a strip exit opening at the  
bottom end,  
a tundish (11) for holding molten metal, said tundish having a discharge  
opening (11A) in direct communication with the mould cavity (C) to feed molten  
metal into the mould entrance opening (E) past an interface between the  
10 tundish (11) and the mould (10),  
a sealing device (14) forming a seal at said tundish-mould interface to  
prevent molten metal from entering said interface, and  
a molten-metal feeding device (12) for supplying molten metal to the  
tundish (11) and maintaining a level of molten metal therein,  
15 **characterised** in that said sealing device (14) comprises  
an upwardly facing horizontal flat sealing element support surface (10A)  
on the mould (10) at the top end thereof, said sealing element support surface  
(10A) extending about the mould entrance opening (E),  
a flat downwardly facing surface (11B) on the tundish, said downwardly  
20 facing surface (11B) extending about the discharge opening (11A) of the  
tundish, and  
a sealing element (14A) formed of a sheet of graphite and being in  
constant sealing engagement with both said horizontal sealing element support  
surface (10A) on the mould (10) and said downwardly facing surface (11B) of  
25 the tundish (11), said sealing element (14A) extending about the mould  
entrance opening (E) and the discharge opening (11A) of the tundish (11).
2. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the mould (10) comprises a pair  
of side walls (15), each side wall comprises a vertical graphite block (17) formed  
30 from a stack of elongate graphite laminae (20) and one end of said block forms  
part of said sealing element support surface (10A) of the mould.

3. Apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the graphite laminae (20) of the stack extend from the entrance opening (E) of the mould cavity (C) to the exit opening and wherein said part of the sealing element support surface (10A) on the mould (10) is formed by the ends of the laminae.

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4. Apparatus according to claim 3, wherein a plurality of coolant tubes (19) extend horizontally through the graphite block (17) through apertures formed in the graphite laminae (20).

10 5. Apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the mould (10) further comprises a pair of end walls (16) of graphite which bridge gaps between the side walls (15), said end walls having flat horizontal upper end faces which are level with said one end of each of said graphite blocks (17) and form parts of said sealing element support surface (10A) on the mould.

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6. Apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said downwardly facing surface (11B) of the tundish (11) is slidable with respect to the sealing element (14).